

Applicant: Boney A. Mathew

Serial No.: 10/603,549

Amendment dated December 15, 2004

Reply to Office Communication dated December 1, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-22 remain in the application where only claim 1 be independent. After entry of the present amendment in reply to this Office Communication claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-22 will be pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention as originally claimed.

None of the prior art patents previously cited by the Examiner, such as, for example, the United States Patent Nos. 6,096,256 to Aretz (the Aretz Patent) and 4,536,116 to Murray (the Murray Patent), teach or suggest “*injecting an insulating layer of an expandable polymer*”, as recited in independent claim 1. The generic expandable polymer has characteristics of a natural rubber to accommodate the differences between the coefficients of thermal expansion thereby eliminating problems of potential cracks, sink-marks, and the like, in a plastic surrounding the insulating layer. Both the Murray and Aretz Patents teach using polyethylene, polyphenyloxide, and high density polypropylene materials to form the plastic insert 50 (the Murray Patent) and the pre-formed cap 28 (the Aretz Patent), respectively, thereby *teaching away* from the Applicant’s invention.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

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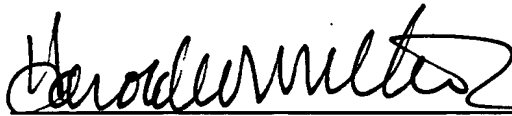
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

December 16, 2004

Date



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/294,381 filed December 4, 2002 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, MAILSTOP AMENDMENT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on **December 16, 2004.**


Melissa Dadisman

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